



## Washington State Legislature

December 14, 2009

Bonneville Power Administration  
Attn: Mark Korsheness  
I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project  
PO Box 9250  
Portland, OR 97207

Dear Mr. Korsheness,

Over the last several weeks we have attended BPA sponsored 'open-house' meetings; constituent sponsored meetings, meetings with individual constituents and with state agency officials regarding the BPA I-5 Corridor Reinforcement project. It is those meetings and what we have learned at those meetings that are prompting this letter to request that BPA develop and pursue construction of the needed transmission on routes not identified in the current scoping process such as:

- a. Further east on public (DNR, USFS, etc) lands; and
- b. Through industrial areas along the Columbia River in Oregon.

Such routes would put the transmission lines away from residential areas and either locate them close to those who use the most power or in rural areas where few or no homes exist. Either of these options would reduce the impacts on homeowners, residential homes values, and concerns regarding health hazards which may be posed by the proximity to such high voltage lines. It is also possible that easements/ ROW's do or have existed in the past to enable transmission of power from the now deactivated Trojan Nuclear Power Plant in Rainier, Oregon and to transmit power to the now closed Reynolds Metals aluminum facility in Longview, WA.

We believe these options need further consideration and request that BPA enter serious talks with DNR and USFS to explore the public lands option and to discuss the Oregon option with current owners of transmission to the Trojan and Reynolds sites.

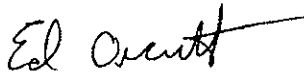
We also feel that BPA needs to look more closely at new and emerging technologies to enable transmission to be put underground wherever possible. Since this project will not be constructed for many years, we believe BPA has the ability to benefit from emerging technology to reduce impacts to homeowners along whichever route is ultimately chosen. Technology which enables BPA to go underground for any portion of the project would also reduce the potential of damage to transmission lines that could affect overhead lines – such as terrorist attack or weather related damage.

Because evidence exists that there are already negative impacts to home values along many of the proposed routes, we call upon BPA to quickly eliminate from public consideration routes that are eliminated from internal consideration. This would allow home values – and the area's housing market – to rebound quickly with the least impact to homeowners.

Finally, we believe that our constituents are very intelligent and innovative. In order for BPA to benefit from this previously untapped resource, we believe BPA needs to hold additional meetings – but do so in a town hall style format. This will enable citizens to express their concerns and offer potential solutions in a forum where others can add ideas or offer alternative ideas which can give BPA access to the most innovative technology and options possible to be certain that everyone continues to have the reliable electricity supply they demand without the negative impacts which now seem imminent to many homeowners in Southwest Washington. This would necessitate an additional extension of the comment period but is vital to BPA conducting a truly effective scoping process.

We look forward to working with you to further explore new options and make this project beneficial to all.

Sincerely,



Rep. Ed Orcutt  
18<sup>th</sup> District



Rep. Jaime Herrera  
18<sup>th</sup> District



Sen. Joseph Zarelli  
18<sup>th</sup> District

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